

UTM's award-winning college newspaper

# thepacer

www.thepacer.net

August 22, 2016

The Independent Voice of the University of Tennessee at Martin

Volume 89, Issue 1

## Welcome Back Skyhawks



The 2016 Back to School mural made by art faculty member Jason Stout and the UT Martin League of Striving Artists.

### 2016 Fall Semester Calendar

- Aug. 22-26 - Late Registration
- Aug. 26 - Last day to add classes or drop with no record of enrollment
- Sept. 5 - Labor Day
- Oct. 3-8 - Homecoming Week
- Oct. 7 - Midterm progress reports due
- Oct. 14 Last day to drop a class
- Oct. 15-18 - Fall Break
- Nov. 7-15 - Advising and registration for Spring 2017
- Nov. 23-27 - Thanksgiving
- Dec. 2 - Fall classes end
- Dec. 5-9 - Finals Week
- Dec. 10 - Graduation



Pacer Photos/Blake Barnes

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Next print issue September 1



# Viewpoints

## EDITORIAL

### Welcome back to UTM, Skyhawks!

It's the beginning of a new school year for our fellow Skyhawks!

Throughout the FYI madness, finding classrooms, going over numerous syllabi and making new friends, we at *The Pacer* want to wish everyone a happy first week of school.

For freshmen and transfer students, we hope that you have found your undergraduate home at UTM. There are many opportunities and events that are now traditional to the fall semester to returning students, and soon will be a familiar part of fall for you as well.

One of these events is the Soybean Festival. This year, the annual event runs Aug. 23 through Sept. 11, and will feature local and regional vendors, musical performances by bands and artists such as the Plain White T's and Hunter Hayes and competitions and special days, such as Disney Day.

On campus, if you've ever had any interest, now is the time to Go Greek! Greek Life is hosting an informational and fun "Pop Into Panhellenic"



Pacer Photo/Jared Peckenpaugh

meeting on Aug. 23 for women interested in going Greek. Fall recruitment for NPC sororities are Aug. 25-29 and IFC fraternities are Aug. 29-Sept. 2. For more information, visit the Greek Life page online through the UTM website ([www.utm.edu](http://www.utm.edu)), or visit room 213-B in the University Center.

Alpha Phi Alpha will be

hosting a midday event called "Voteless People is a Hopeless People" from today to Sept. 1 in the University Center foyer. This will cover information about voter registration, education about voting and a voting restoration drive.

One of our newest clubs on campus, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), will have its first

meeting of the semester on Sept. 1.

Lastly, the first home football game of the season will be Saturday, Sept. 17, against Bacone College.

With all of this going on, it's safe to say that the start of this new school year will be as eventful as it will be great.

## COLUMN

### How to survive the first year of college

Ashton Priest

Viewpoints Editor

If you think freshman year is going to fly by easily, you are totally wrong.

While it's definitely fun and exciting, jumping into college education can be a bit overwhelming. To help with that, here are some ideas to give your first year some leeway.

Though (most of) you will already have attended FYI weekend, it's important to know how the requirements for school (and staying here), what you can/cannot do on campus and what the university expects out of you. Knowing these rules will keep you out of trouble and enrolled at UT Martin.

Once classes begin, get to know your classrooms for the semester, the respective syllabi and the faculty. Does your professor care about attendance? Does your professor have office hours when you're free to ask for help? Also, know that your professors are always there for you and will help in any way, unless you procrastinate and wait until the last minute to do a big project.



Photo Credit/Creative Commons

Don't like a class you've chosen? If so, meet with your adviser before dropping or adding a class so that you can stay on the right track to graduating on time.

As your classes move on, it'll be smart to start good study habits early. Studying with a group, by yourself, in the library, etc. are some ideas for studying that might work for you, pick

and choose what works best for you. Along that thread, pulling all-nighters before tests is not the best idea in the world. Though studying is important, make sure to get some sleep every night. By the time midterms and finals roll around, you'll be thankful.

For commuter freshman, it's also a great idea to get up early to find parking

spaces. Getting to campus 10 minutes before class probably won't give you the time necessary to find a parking spot.

Of course, you can have fun outside of campus. There are many interesting restaurants, attractions and such around Martin and the Northwest Tennessee area where you and friends can go to.

Remember, however, that these fun things might cost money, a meal plan or Captain's Cash, so if you're on a budget, please watch your bank account and limit your splurges. Also, don't be afraid to try new things while exploring your new home.

Try to find some activities or clubs on campus to join. You can go Greek, join a gym session to stay healthy and active or join an academic or interest-based club. If there's a topic, there's a club for it.

Lastly, while it's perfectly okay to have incredible, unforgettable adventures, remember to go to class. On and off campus, Martin has a lot of activities and events, but you're ultimately here for one thing: to get an education.

thepacer

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First  
Pacer  
meeting

5 p.m.  
Monday,  
Aug. 29

313  
Gooch



# Viewpoints

## COLUMNS

### Soybean to charge for performances

**Ashton Priest**  
Viewpoints Editor

Students know it's the beginning of the fall semester when the Soybean Festival opens.

This year, as per usual, the Soybean Festival will start August 23 through September 11. Though the festival will offer the same type of vendors and entertainment, one thing will change: most music performances will require ticket purchases.

Ever since the first festival in 1994, the Soybean Festival has prided itself on providing free entertainment that brings all of Weakley County and UTM together. Students have always lurked on the festival's website and social media to see who would be headlining the festival concerts, from Kansas to We The Kings to Night Ranger and more.

The new ticket purchase announcement, however, has resulted in mixed reviews on whether or not it is a good idea.

Some are okay with this, saying that the festival is not possible without community support, and that ticket sales could bring in enough to help the town's economy, or at least bring bigger acts for the next year. Those in favor of the change have also pointed out that to go see these acts elsewhere, tickets

would cost anywhere from 80 dollars to as much as 200 dollars. In contrast, ticket purchases for each performance at the festival ranges from 10 to 25 dollars. That's not bad once prices are compared.

However, others have enjoyed the free entertainment. Most of these others are students, who can't necessarily afford to see every concert they as they did in past years. They enjoyed the performances, not only because it was a way to get away from the early stress of classes, but also provided a lack of stress by not having to worry about how to get money for tickets. And with many students on a tight budget, no student needs added stress just to see an act that they would have seen free otherwise.

In addition, some have expressed confusion regarding how the tickets will work, or how security can keep track of who gets in. Will there be a fence? Numbered seating places? We don't know for sure yet, but chances are people will find a way to get through and see their act of choice.

While there might be benefits to the community in music ticket sales, it's going to be hard for people, mostly students, to really enjoy or afford to have the classic fall gathering that is the Soybean Festival without stress or financial strain.

### Debatable sexist moments in Rio

**Kristina Shaw**  
Co-News Editor

Despite the athletic fears of athletes at this year's Rio de Janeiro Summer Olympics, accusations of sexist commentary by members of the media and other athletes have stolen some of the spotlight.

Outrage over the commentary has even led to the use of the hashtag #CovertheAthlete, which calls for equal recognition for the accomplishments of male and female athletes, not just to what they wear. The question is, are the comments truly sexist or do they reflect a lapse of good judgement?

For example, extra attention was given to American swimmer Dana Vollmer, who was awarded a bronze medal in the 100-meter butterfly and a silver medal for the 4x100 meter free relay, for having a baby only 17 months prior to her appearance at the Olympics. Why can't she be praised for this? Is it not inspiring that she was able to balance her time between taking care of a child and train for the highest caliber of her sport and bounce back into top shape so quickly?

Another American swimmer, Katie Ledecky, now a decorated Olympian herself, has athleticism in the pool that has been compared to a man's. Ryan Lochte said in a Sports Illustrated Magazine piece that

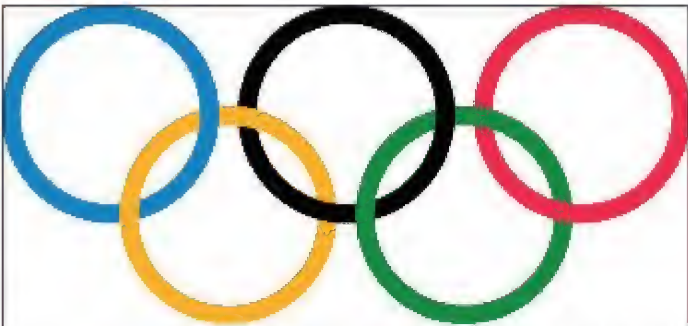


Photo Credits/Creative Commons

Ledecky, "swims like a guy" and to USA Today that she "is doing respectable times for guys." This has been taken by some as a dig to her talent and accomplishments. However, on an anatomical level does it not make some sense for there to be a difference in performance?

On the other hand, some instances are harder to conceptualize as anything but gender prejudice.

Fox News came under fire after holding a panel discussing women athletes' use of makeup. Host Tamara Holder discussed with two men—retired New York Police Department detective, Bo Dietl, and radio host Mark Simone—makeup's place in Olympic performances. At one point, Dietl said, "We all have opinions, but when someone looks better, people support them more. When you look like a washed-out rag, no one's gonna support you."

NBC was under similar

attack on two occasions. In one instance, a commentator stated that the U.S. women's gymnastics team "might as well be standing in the middle of a mall" while happily waiting together for a score during the qualifying round. Hungarian swimmer Katinka Hosszu was discredited of her record winning gold in the 400-meter medley when another broadcaster credited her husband as the source of her success.

On social media, the Chicago Tribune also tweeted three-time Olympian Corey Cogdell-Unreing's bronze medal in trap shooting by referring to her as the "wife of a Bears lineman."

In today's world, there is a resurgence of awareness about what we say and why exactly we say it. Though justifiable, this can at times be excessive and a cry for attention. The importance of crediting one's achievements—regardless of gender—is top priority and we must recognize it as such.

## PUZZLE

### Coming back to campus!: Word Search #1

F	O	N	E	N	E	S	B	R	D	I	Q	L	O	S
S	T	A	R	B	U	C	K	S	E	N	S	U	R	U
P	P	Y	U	A	L	X	Q	O	E	C	X	H	A	B
L	E	R	M	H	B	R	A	P	O	Q	A	G	N	A
R	O	N	O	M	P	M	X	F	N	B	I	P	G	L
Q	R	B	C	F	R	A	J	O	K	I	E	D	E	L
Z	Z	Z	M	I	E	H	E	O	C	G	C	T	X	Y
X	G	C	Z	Q	L	S	H	D	L	B	F	I	O	S
L	I	B	R	A	R	Y	S	C	H	S	T	M	K	N
K	E	E	R	G	U	S	U	O	U	B	P	Y	A	C
L	L	A	B	T	O	O	F	U	R	J	H	E	L	M
S	O	U	L	M	N	D	V	R	D	A	B	A	K	M
E	K	T	Y	L	T	O	L	T	W	Y	S	O	Q	G
I	D	R	G	J	I	Q	H	K	O	S	B	C	U	J
F	T	U	V	P	L	I	S	S	R	B	I	H	E	Q

BLUE  
CLASS  
FOODCOURT  
FOOTBALL  
GREEK  
LIBRARY  
NOTEBOOK  
ORANGE  
PACER  
PEN  
PENCIL  
PROFESSOR  
SKYHAWKS  
SOYBEAN  
STARBUCKS  
SYLLABUS



# News

## Chancellor search brings candidates to UTM

Laura Crossett  
Co-News Editor

The search for a new UTM chancellor has been narrowed to four candidates.

The position is currently filled by Interim Chancellor Dr. Robert Smith. As his term comes to an end, UTM will look to his replacement to help continue current campus progress and initiatives, as well as help shape the university's future.

Two female applicants, Dr. Mary Holz-Clause and Dr. Jerald Woolfolk, and two male applicants, Dr. Keith Carver and Dr. Jay Morgan, have made it to the final stages, each with different backgrounds.

One of the highlights of Dr. Mary Holz-Clause's resumé includes 25 years of experience working for Iowa State University.

Dr. Woolfolk spent 10 years at Mississippi Valley State University in various positions.

Dr. Carver has a history with the UT system, and has been the executive assistant for the president of the UT System for the past five years.

### Candidate Open Forums

<b>Dr. Mary Holz-Clause</b> Aug. 29	<b>Dr. Keith Carver</b> Sept. 7
<b>Dr. Jerald Woolfolk</b> Aug. 30	<b>Dr. Jay Morgan</b> Sept. 8

All forums will be held from 2-4 p.m. in Watkins Auditorium.

Dr. Morgan spent 20 years working in leadership roles for Murray State University.

Whoever the new chancellor is, he or she will act as "chief executive officer of the Martin campus."

The job description for the position of chancellor is lengthy, but one line truly encapsulates the importance of the role: "This position aggressively promotes continued development of UTM's academic, research and service programs while striving to build a national reputation of excellence."

Public forums are planned for all four candidates. During their visits, candidates will be introduced to faculty, staff, students and members of the local community.

During his recent address

to faculty, interim Chancellor Smith urged members of the campus and local communities to attend the open forum presentations, ask thoughtful questions and be engaged in the selection process.

"This is your university," he said. "You have equity in UT Martin, and candidates need to know where you want their investment of time and resources. You need to come away believing they can deliver."

Following the candidates' campus visits, the chancellor search committee will make its recommendation. Then, later this fall, a new chancellor will ultimately be selected by the UT Board of Trustees and appointed by Dr. Joe DiPietro, UT System president.



The four candidates for UTM chancellor are, clockwise from top left: Dr. Mary Holz-Clause, Dr. Keith Carver, Dr. Jerald Woolfolk, and Dr. Jay Morgan. | Photos courtesy University Relations

## Concert tickets just one of many changes coming to Soybean 2016

Laura Crossett  
Co-News Editor

While the Soybean Festival is a regular sight every fall in Martin, a lot of big changes are coming this year.

Beginning this year, music concerts will now require attendees to purchase tickets. The tickets are all general admission, and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. While the concert will stay take place at the same park it has for years, it will no longer support all the viewers who want to attend. Instead, the festival will enforce a cap of 3,000 paid customers at any of their concerts.

With surrounding roads closed off for the festival, visitors in previous years could simply stand in the road and be able to catch the acts on the massive stage from a much broader area. Now there will be walls lining the perimeter of Festival Park, with two entrances to access seating. Guards will be placed at either entrance, and will scan tickets before allowing entry to the concerts. One entrance will be on the east of the park on Central, and the other will be at the corner of Lindell and Main.

The park will be divided into two sections, with 2,000 seats available (including bleachers), and an area for an extra 1,000 people to stand near the front

of the stage. Like the tickets, seating is first come, first served. The doors will open 2 hours prior to the beginning of each performance, giving early attendees an advantage for optimum seating.

Access to the concerts Soybean offers is no longer complimentary, and have prices which range from \$7 to \$20 depending on the act. Tickets can be bought online ahead of the date, and remaining tickets will be sold at the Festival Park Ticket Box Office 2 hours before each act begins.

Lawn chairs, backpacks or other large bags, and coolers will no longer be allowed.



Image Credit/Tennessee Soybean Festival

### Help support MMS sports!

**Date:** Saturday, Aug. 27  
**Time:** Registration 7:30 a.m., race 8 a.m.  
**Cost:** \$20 early, \$25 day of race  
**Contact:** The Sideline or email Taylor.Johnson@wcsk12tn.net  
**First 100 runners receive T-shirts!**

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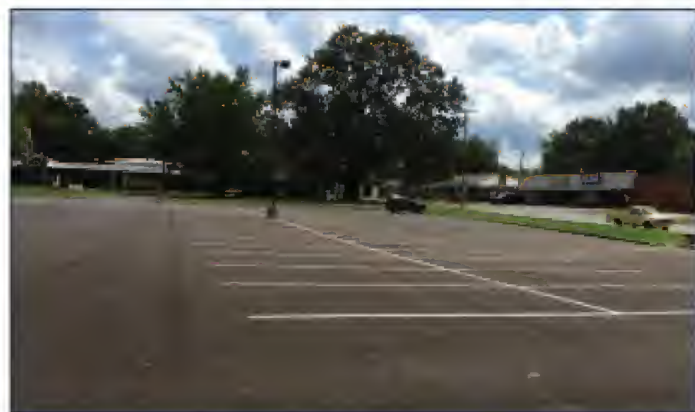
**Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

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**731-587-6001**



# News



Photos of the newly expanded parking lot by the Business Administration Building. | **Photo Credit/Justin Glover**

## Parking: The old and the new

**Kristina Shaw**  
Co-News Editor

Among many new features added to and completed on campus over the summer, the resurfacing of the Business and Administration parking lot is one of the changes more immediately noticeable to students.

Located behind the business building, the parking has been renovated to include more than 20 new parking spaces, in order to accommodate the growing need for parking.

For those new to UTM, consult the parking brochure on the Public Safety page of the UTM website for more details about choosing the correct location that corresponds with your parking permit. Parking is distributed across campus for visitors, faculty and staff and commuters, as well as non-commuters.

Permits are available for purchase at Public Safety in Crisp Hall from 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., Monday through Friday. To obtain a permit, students must first register online through myUTMartin and pay \$70 for the school year. Students are advised to place their sticker in the proper area on the driver's side window. Without the sticker, the car is not registered as a student vehicle, which has subsequent consequences.

However, students are given a grace period at the start of the semester before officers begin to write tickets for "Failure to Register."

"I warn you that doesn't mean we aren't writing tickets the first week," said Scott Robbins, director of Public Safety. "Officers and ticket writers will be out looking for parking violations such as handicap violations, fire lane, improper designation parking

and others."

Students will still be required to park in their designated area during this grace period.

After the first week, tickets for failure to register or improper designation will result in a \$20 fine, and illegally parking in a handicap space will result in a charge of \$200. An additional \$15 late fee is also applied after 14 days. Outstanding tickets can be paid at Crisp Hall. After five or more violations in a semester, students may have their car towed.

Make sure to start the semester off right by parking in designated areas around campus, such as behind the business building. For more information on parking space designations, visit [https://www.utm.edu/departments/publicsafety/\\_pdfs/ParkingBrochure\\_front13-14.pdf](https://www.utm.edu/departments/publicsafety/_pdfs/ParkingBrochure_front13-14.pdf).

## Chancellor thanks campus for year of accomplishments

### University Relations

UTM Interim Chancellor Robert M. Smith presented his "State of the University" address during the annual fall faculty meeting last week to update the campus community on where major university initiatives stand in the coming academic year.

Smith thanked the UT Board of Trustees for their support over the past year in implementing dramatic changes in tuition rates for out-of-state students and approving the Soar in Four program.

"The Board of Trustees approved a restructuring of our out-of-state tuition to make us competitive nationally and open new markets," he said. "We now have a foundation to expand our market that was previously not feasible."

The tuition change cuts UTM's out-of-state tuition rate by 33 percent, with an additional opportunity for qualifying scholarship students to increase their savings up to 56 percent as compared to previous years.

The Soar in Four program, which begins this semester, was supported by students



Interim Chancellor Robert Smith gives his "State of the University" address. | **Photo Credit/University Relations**

to fill areas of need in their UTM educational experience. The program seeks to increase four-year graduation rates and improve career and professional skills to help graduates find profitable employment.

As part of the new program, seven full-time faculty members have been hired to address bottleneck issues in gateway courses, and the Student Success Center has been expanded to four staff members. Living-Learning Communities have also been established in Cooper

Hall to help students develop relationships with others from the same academic area and improve student retention.

The program also funds a new Career Services Center, located on the second floor of the Boling University Center, to provide career development and internship placement services for students and alumni.

Smith also addressed the campus response to accreditation concerns. UTM received verbal notice in December 2015 that the Southern Association

of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) had placed the university on a 12-month probation pending corrective actions requested by the commission.

"In January 2016, we met together under dark circumstances to acknowledge that we were not where we wanted to be and declare that we can prove we are better than we were being portrayed," he said. "The singular key to our success has been the unified commitment made across this campus to get the necessary work done."

The Third Monitoring Report, required by the SACSCOC, is ready for submission, and outside reviewers are confident UTM has met the criteria to be removed from probationary status.

"This report builds on the work completed over the past two years and makes a quantum leap in how we express who we are and what we seek to be," said Smith. The 196-page document is the precursor to the committee's campus visit, scheduled for Oct. 4-6, and

includes links to 7,165 pages of supporting documents.

Smith ended his presentation by congratulating UTM faculty, staff and students on their accomplishments in the past academic year.

"We've faced more challenges than we thought we would, but we also created more opportunities than we thought possible," he said. "We can overcome anything together. I believe we have moved back to a place where we are capable of being among the best student-centered higher education institutions in the nation."

UT System President Joe DiPietro also offered remarks during the meeting.

"The enterprise you're engaged in is very important to the University of Tennessee System," he said. "We really appreciate what you do here at UT Martin."

To view an archived webcast of the meeting, visit [webcast2012.utm.edu](http://webcast2012.utm.edu) and select "Fall Opening Meeting" under the general tab on the left. It is best to use Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome, and Microsoft Silverlight must be installed to view the content.

## Have a blessed semester!

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- † Sunday worship: 10:30 a.m.; fellowship hour following
- † 145 Hannings Lane (next to University Village) † 731-587-9718
- † Email: [trinitypresb@frontiernet.net](mailto:trinitypresb@frontiernet.net) † Facebook: Trinity Presbyterian
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# Arts & Entertainment

## WAYS TO STAY ENTERTAINED ON CAMPUS

### Greek Events

UTM has 23 sororities and fraternities that host events for the campus to enjoy throughout the Fall and Spring semesters.

### Rec Events

If you want to have fun and stay in shape, the Rec Center hosts fitness classes weekly. A full schedule of classes can be found on [thehub.orgsync.com](http://thehub.orgsync.com).

### SAC Events

The SAC (Student Activities Council) brings several entertainment events to campus, such as movie nights, contests, comedian shows, video game tournaments and more.

### Art Events

Fine Arts events range from theater and dance to music and visual art shows. Many of the events for the 2016-2017 school year are listed below.

## Fine Arts Schedule

**The Secret Lives of Colored People**  
Guest Artist Exhibition:  
Robert Nunley  
Through Aug. 26  
Fine Arts Building Art Gallery

**Faculty Oboe Recital - Dr. Doug Owens**  
3 p.m. Aug. 28  
Blankenship Recital Hall

**Guitar as Art**  
2-4 p.m. Sept. 4-17  
Fine Arts Building Art Gallery

**LCD and Friends Recital (Faculty Woodwind Trio)**  
3 p.m. Sept. 11  
Blankenship Recital Hall

**Faculty Trombone Recital - Joseph Frye**  
3 p.m. Sept. 18  
Blankenship Recital Hall

**Roots of Rhythm Tour of Schools**  
Sept. 19-20

**Senior Exhibitions**  
Sept. 20-Nov.19  
Fine Arts Building Art Gallery

**Russian Piano Music Recital - Brian Ray**  
3 p.m. Oct. 9  
Blankenship Recital Hall

**Dance Ensemble Fall Showcase/Workshop**  
7 p.m. Oct. 21-22  
Capital Theatre, Union City

**"Zombies from the Beyond" by James Valcq**  
Oct. 27-30  
Harriet Fulton Theatre  
Fine Arts Building  
Vanguard Theatre production

**UTM Percussion and Dance Ensembles World Music Showcase Concert**  
7:30 p.m. Nov. 6  
Fulton Theatre

**World Percussion Ensemble Competition**  
University Winner Showcase Concert  
2-2:50 p.m. Nov. 10

**Wind Ensemble Concert**  
7:30 p.m. Nov. 13  
Fulton Theatre

**Jazz Band Concert**  
7:30 p.m. Nov. 14  
Fulton Theatre

**Contemporary Art Exhibition**  
Nov. 22-29  
Fine Arts Building Art Gallery

**Orchestra Concert**  
7:30 p.m. Nov. 28  
Fulton Theatre

**Concert Band**  
7:30 p.m. Nov. 21  
Fulton Theatre

**LSA Holiday Art Bazaar**  
Dec. 1-3  
Fine Arts Building Art Gallery

**Holiday Concert**  
3 p.m. Dec. 4  
Fulton Theatre

**Faculty Tuba Recital - Bill Waterman**  
7:30 p.m. Jan. 17  
Blankenship Recital Hall

**LSA Art Exhibition**  
Feb. 14-25  
Fine Arts Building Art Gallery

**"The Realistic Joneses" by Will Eno**  
Feb. 23-28  
Vanguard Little Theatre  
Fine Arts Building

**Faculty Musicale**  
12:15 p.m. Feb. 27  
Blankenship Recital Hall

**Senior Exhibitions**  
March 14-April 8  
Fine Arts Building Art Gallery

**Dance Ensemble Spring Concert**  
March 30-31  
Harriet Fulton Theatre  
Fine Arts Building

**Wind Ensemble Concert**  
3 p.m. April 9  
Fulton Theatre

**Jazz Band Concert**  
7:30 p.m. April 20  
Fulton Theatre

**Student Directed Showcase**  
April 27-30  
Vanguard Little Theatre  
Fine Arts Building



# Sports

## Skyhawks believe they are potential 'dark horse' this season

Jared Peckenpau

Executive Editor/Sports Editor

If you ask anyone associated with the Skyhawk football team, they will tell you that last year was a year of missed opportunities.

Despite claiming huge conference wins against Eastern Kentucky and Tennessee State and finishing third in the Ohio Valley Conference (up two spots from where they were predicted to finish in the preseason poll), the Skyhawks suffered two key conference losses to Eastern Illinois and defending champion Jacksonville State, both by single digits.

Add the two non-conference losses to Arkansas and Ole Miss, and the Skyhawks not only missed out on an opportunity to clinch their second conference title, but just missed out on clinching an at-large bid in the FCS football national championship tournament.

However, Skyhawk head coach Jason Simpson has already put last season behind him and has focused himself and his team solely on this upcoming season.

Despite being picked to finish fourth in both the OVC Media and Preseason Poll, Simpson believes that this team has what it takes to get to the top.

"We always put ourselves in that case, that's kind of our mentality," said Simpson. "We spend a lot of time defining and talking about the standard and that is our standard. We always consider ourselves the dark horse."

Simpson enters this year as the longest current tenured head coach in the conference at 11 years. Since his arrival in 2006, Simpson has won one conference title (2006), has claimed the Sgt. York Trophy four times (2010, 2012, 2014, 2015) and has yet to have an under-500 team in conference play in his eleven year tenure.

Going into this year, the Skyhawks were picked to finish fourth in the OVC in both the media and preseason poll. Even though the Skyhawks only have four returning starters on offense and five on defense, UTM has



Photo Credit/Sports Information

65 lettermen returning this year, giving the Skyhawks an experience advantage.

But before suiting up for their first game against Cincinnati on Thursday, Sept. 1, The Skyhawks first need to address the openings at some key positions, and a few of those questions lie on the offensive side of the football.

The quarterback situation for the Skyhawks is one of the most important open positions on the team. With Jarod Neal gone, the Skyhawks will look at a pair of Division-I transfer quarterbacks to lead the team. Troy Cook, a transfer from Florida State, joined the team last year and was the backup behind Neal last season. Cook played in four games last year and completed 11 of his 16 passes for 109 yards and one touchdown. The other potential starter at quarterback is Marshall transfer Gunnar Holcombe. Holcombe played in one game last season and saw action in nine games the year before. In 2014, Holcombe completed 12 of his 21 passes for 119 yards and rushed for 66 yards.

"If there's one position that I'm concerned about, it's at the quarterback position," said Simpson. "We've got two guys that are talented, but once

again they have not thrown touchdown passes in the OVC. That's where my biggest concern is, not from an athletic standpoint, just from a 'getting it done' standpoint."

Right now, Coach Simpson has yet to name a starter between the two and potential freshman QB Kyle Akin who redshirted last year. However, don't be surprised to see Coach Simpson go with the dual-quarterback system that was successful for the Skyhawks two seasons ago with Neal and then senior quarterback Dylan Favre.

"At the end of camp, if they both earned the right, then they'll both play," said Simpson. "If one really separates them self and gives us a better chance to win, then that guy will be the starter and the other guy will be their backup."

The running back position right now has been mostly dominated by returners Najee Ray, Jamie Bowe and Ladevin Fair; but sophomores Terry Norris, Marcus Lafore and Ty Brown along with transfers Marquez Grayson and Terrance Hollingsworth have really been impressive.

"I like our talent there," said Simpson. "Jamie Bowe is all-conference talent, just new at learning pass protection and

learning different things to do. Trent Garland was such a reliable guy last year and [Ladevin Fair] had a good season and Najee [Ray] gives you a certain talent level there too. We've also added Marquez Grayson, a transfer from East Carolina. I like the depth at that running back spot."

Despite losing explosive wide receivers Rod Wright and William Tanner, the Skyhawks have plenty of talent at that position. Caylon Weathers returns this year after receiving 62 catches for 726 yards and eight touchdowns. Also returning this year are seniors Kyle Kerrick and Ben Axline, who played some last season but were plagued by injuries. Also, senior transfer Greg McKillion from Memphis has looked very impressive in summer camp so far.

The Skyhawks do have three of their four returning offensive starters at the offensive line. With the addition of some transfers and experienced upperclassmen, Coach Simpson feels very confident with this year's offensive line.

"I think our offensive line is going to be as good as it's ever been."

On the defensive side of the ball, the Skyhawks have

five returning starters, led by sophomore linebackers Kevin Prather, Jr. and James Gilleylen, senior linebacker Caleb Counce, defensive end Damani Taylor and nose tackle Keith Jones. However, the Skyhawks have no returning starters in the secondary, despite the fact that several of the projected starters on the preseason tentative two-deep are upperclassmen.

"I think we'll be better on defense this year than we were last year," said Simpson. "I think the front seven is very athletic, very strong, very seasoned at several positions. There are some new faces in the secondary, but last year's secondary gave up 25 touchdown passes, so we've got to get better in there whether its graduation or new guys step up and play another role. That's got to be cut in half."

"We've added some guys through signing and through some transfer situations, so we expect to be better in the secondary."

Junior kicker Mitch Mersman will assume the kicking duties for the Skyhawks, and Tae Martin and Najee Ray will be the primary kick and punt returners.

The Skyhawks will open their 2016 season on the road for their first two games. UTM will travel to Cincinnati to take on the Bearcats on a special Thursday night game and then will travel to the Aloha state to take on the Hawaii Rainbow Warriors on Sept. 10. The Skyhawks will return home on Sept. 17 and Sept. 24 to take on NAIA Bacone College and Tennessee Tech in their conference opener. The Skyhawks will travel once more on Oct. 1 to Nashville to take on Tennessee State before returning home to face Austin Peay on Oct. 8 on Homecoming.

After two quick road games at Murray State (Oct. 15) and non-conference Georgia State (Oct. 22), the Skyhawks close out their season at home against Eastern Kentucky (Oct. 29), at Eastern Illinois (Nov. 5), at home against Southeast Missouri (Nov. 12) and at Jacksonville State (Nov. 19).

### UTM Summer Sports Headlines

While you were busy enjoying your summer break, several big announcements were made:

- Less than a month ago, the university announced the addition of two new sports: beach volleyball and men's and women's indoor and outdoor track. Both indoor and outdoor track teams will be coached by Peter Dalton and officially compete at the NCAA Division I level as members of the Ohio Valley Conference. The beach volleyball team will be coached by current volleyball coach Jaclyn Yocum. Beach volleyball is one of the fastest growing collegiate sports since 2009 according to the NCAA.
- UTM placed 83 student-athletes on the OVC Commissioner's Honor Roll. Eight student athletes recieved the OVC Medal of Honor for a perfect 4.0 grade point average.
- The Skyhawk football team has been picked to finish fourth in the OVC in the preseason poll. The UTM soccer team was also picked to finish fourth in the OVC preseason poll.

### Around the NEST

#### Soccer

7 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 21 - at UAB  
1 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 28 - at Mississippi State

#### Volleyball

College of Charleston Invitational

Charleston, South Carolina

Noon Friday, Aug. 26 - College of Charleston  
3:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 26 - Binghamton  
9 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 27 - South Carolina



# Do you want to start or buy a business of your own?

There is no better time to begin studying and starting a business than while you are in college. You have access to knowledge, skills, and opportunities that you may never have again.

**Entrepreneurship is for all majors.** You can contribute to a team that wants to start a business and make it grow. *Skyhawk Venture Challenge Workshop begins October 6 at 6 p.m. and continues each Thursday for six weeks. These workshops are free and will be offered in the Business Building, Room 33. Sessions will include:*

**Purpose and Strategy**  
**Intellectual Property**  
**Due Diligence**  
**Your Market**  
**Competitors**  
**Leadership**

Come **experience** what it can be like to start and own a business!

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**UT MARTIN**



"I'm convinced that about half of what separates the successful entrepreneurs from the non-successful ones is pure perseverance."  
 - Steve Jobs, co-founder and CEO of Apple.

"If you're not embarrassed by the first version of your product, you've launched too late."  
 - Reid Hoffman, co-founder of LinkedIn.

"It doesn't matter how many times you fail. It doesn't matter how many times you almost get it right. No one is going to know or care about your failures, and neither should you. All you have to do is learn from them and those around you because all that matters in business is that you get it right once. Then everyone can tell you how lucky you are."  
 - Mark Cuban, Owner of the Dallas Mavericks

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**Also streamed online at [www.utm.edu/wutm](http://www.utm.edu/wutm)**